

Community First Choice

The Division will continue to provide information on Community First Choice as it becomes available.

The following important update was provided September 20, 2012.

If you have additional questions/concerns, do not hesitate to call the Division of Developmental Disabilities at 1-866-229-5553.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM AHCCCS

AHCCCS wants to thank those family members and individuals who have contacted us to express concern about the recent regulation issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) related to individuals serving both as a member's individual representative (e.g. guardian) and paid caregiver. You have provided us with valuable insight into the challenges that the provision may pose, if implemented in a manner that does not recognize the important role that individual representatives play in the lives of those served by Arizona's long term care system (ALTCS). To that end, we are working diligently to identify a mechanism that will allow us to effectively implement the new regulation, while also preserving the roles of all individuals that help to ensure the success, health and well-being of ALTCS members. We understand the critical part that you play in that effort and want you to know that we are committed to finding a solution that serves the best interests of members and Arizona's long term care program.

Thank you, again, for reaching out to us.

The following important update was provided August 17, 2012.

If you have a question about the individual representative/paid caregiver provisions of Community First Choice, you may call the Division directly at this toll-free number: 1-866-229-5553.

Please read the additional information below as it may answer your questions.

In the initial notification we sent you from AHCCCS, we informed you that an individual cannot be paid to provide services AND ALSO serve as a member's individual representative. **"Individual representative"** is defined as a parent, family member, guardian, advocate, or other person authorized by the individual to serve as a representative in connection with the provision of services and supports.

You cannot be both an individual's representative and a paid caregiver for that individual. If you want to give up your role as the individual's representative, **you can continue to be paid.**

If you give up your role as representative, you may still participate in planning meetings. You will not, however, be asked to agree or disagree with the service authorizations that result from the planning process.

Alternatively, if you want to continue to be the individual's representative, your planning team will assist you in finding alternate providers who are not the individual's representative.

The following information was provided by AHCCCS August 13, 2012.

Effective January 1, 2013, AHCCCS will implement the Community First Choice Option, in an

effort to expand the availability of member-directed service options for individuals enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS).

The final regulations, outlining the requirements of the Community First Choice Option, state that an individual's representative may not also be a paid caregiver of an individual receiving services and supports. "**Individual's representative**" is defined as a parent, family member, guardian, advocate, or other person authorized by the individual to serve as a representative in connection with the provision of services and supports.

As such, beginning on January 1, 2013, a person acting as a representative for an ALTCS member (in connection with the provision of services and supports, not eligibility) will not be allowed to also be the paid caregiver for that member. Further guidance regarding this provision will be disseminated shortly. Until that time, please feel free to consult the final regulations for Community First Choice. They can be found at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-07/pdf/2012-10294.pdf>.